

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 EB-08 NTIE-00

OES-09 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 L-03 ACDA-12 NASA-01 /082 W

-----001537 290829Z /15

O 290742Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4153

RUEKJCS SECDEF WASHDC

NMCC WASHDC

INFO JCS WASHDC

DCA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CINCMAC, SCOTT AFB

ADCOM, PETERSEN AFB

CDRUSACC, FT. HUACHUCA

S E C R E T CANBERRA 6907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MARR, AS

SUBJECT: DEPLOYMENT OF BACK-UP SATELLITE STATION FOR WOOMERA

REFS: CANBERRA 6816 (262327Z AUG 78), NMCC 1363 (28020Z AUG 78)

1. HUTTON (ACTING FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENCE DIVISION, DEPE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AND HAMILTON (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY, ADOD) CALLED POL COUNSELOR A FEW MINUTES AGO TO SUGGEST THAT US RE-CONSIDER DESIRABILITY OF SENDING BACK-UP SATELLITE GROUND TERMINAL TO WOOMERA.

2. THEIR POINTS WERE THAT SPEEDY GOA APPROVAL FOR DEPLOYMENT OF TERMINAL WAS GRANTED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH NO LONGER EXIST. AUSTRALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE APPROVED LABOR AGREEMENT WORKED OUT OVER LAST WEEKEND, AND SOME TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNITS ADVISE THAT  
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WORKERS BEGAN REAPPEARING THIS MORNING. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO BE FUNCTIONING SATISFACTORILY IN MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME--SAY 90 PERCENT WITHIN 24 HOURS. WOOMERA REPORTS ALL ITS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ARE BACK ON LINE INCLUDING BOTH PRIMARY AND ALTERNATE IN-COUNTRY CIRCUITS AS WELL AS BACK-UP SATCOM SYSTEM.

3. CURRENT STATUS IS AIRCRAFT CARRYING BACK-UP SYSTEM EXPECTED AT RAAF RICHMOND (JUST OUTSIDE SYDNEY) WITHIN THE HOUR; THEY WILL REMAIN OVERNIGHT THERE, DEPARTING APPROXIMATELY 11 AM LOCAL TIME TOMORROW. BY THEN THE NEED FOR THEM WILL HAVE ENDED. "THEREFORE, IF EVENTS WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE NEED FOR THE EQUIPMENT HAVE DISAPPEARED, IT WOULD APPEAR BETTER TO AVOID POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY CROP UP SHOULD THE AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT BE SEEN TO BE ARRIVING AT WOOMERA," --HUTTON.

4. HUTTON AND HAMILTON STRESSED THAT GOA WAS NOT RPT NOT WITHDRAWING CLEARANCE FOR DEPLOYMENT TO WOOMERA OF THE EQUIPMENT, BUT RATHER THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH LED TO GOA APPROVAL FOR DEPLOYMENT THEY WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO INFORM THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTERS OF OUR INTENTION TO COMPLETE THE DEPLOYMENT WITH RATIONALE FOR OUR WISHING TO DO SO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. RECONSIDERATION OF ADVISABILITY

OF COMPLETION OF DEPLOYMENT OF BACK-UP EQUIPMENT TO WOOMERA IN LIGHT OF ABOVE-DESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADVICE AS TO WHETHER DEPLOYMENT SHOULD PROCEED. IF SO, PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY OF RATIONALE YOU WISH US TO USE WITH GOA.

ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SATELLITES, TRACKING STATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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